

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A mixture of isomeric decyl benzoates, comprising:  
from 50 to 99% of 2-propylheptyl benzoate and  
from 1 to 50% of at least one decyl benzoate selected from the group consisting of 2-isopropyl-4-methylhexyl benzoate, 2-isopropyl-5-methylhexyl benzoate, 2-propyl-4-methylhexyl benzoate, 2-propyl-5-methylhexyl benzoate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decyl benzoate is 2-isopropyl-4-methylhexyl benzoate.

Claim 3 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decyl benzoate is 2-isopropyl-5-methylhexyl benzoate.

Claim 4 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decyl benzoate is 2-propyl-4-methylhexyl benzoate.

Claim 5 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decyl benzoate is 2-propyl-5-methylhexyl benzoate.

Claim 6 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decyl benzoate is a mixture of two or more decyl benzoates selected from the group consisting of 2-isopropyl-4-methylhexyl benzoate, 2-isopropyl-5-methylhexyl benzoate, 2-propyl-4-methylhexyl benzoate and 2-propyl-5-methylhexyl benzoate.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing the mixture as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises:

esterifying 2-propylheptanol[[,]] with benzoic acid,  
~~2-propylheptanol~~, and  
at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 2-isopropyl-4-methylhexanol, 2-isopropyl-5-methylhexanol, 2-propyl-4-methylhexanol, 2-propyl-5-methylhexanol, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing the mixture as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises:

esterifying 2-propylheptanol and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 2-isopropyl-4-methylhexanol, 2-isopropyl-5-methylhexanol, 2-propyl-4-methylhexanol, 2-propyl-5-methylhexanol, and mixtures thereof, with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methyl benzoate, ethyl benzoate, propyl benzoate, butyl benzoate, and mixtures thereof[[,]]

~~to transesterify 2-propylheptanol and at least one selected from the group consisting of 2-isopropyl-4-methylhexanol, 2-isopropyl-5-methylhexanol, 2-propyl-4-methylhexanol, 2-propyl-5-methylhexanol, and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 9 (Original): The process as claimed in Claim 8, wherein esterification is carried out autocatalytically or catalytically using one or more Bronstedt or Lewis acids.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising using one or more entrainers.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising using one or more entrainers in excess of from 5 to 50% an amount needed to form the ester.

Claim 12 (Original): The process as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising using one or more esterification catalysts selected from the group consisting of acid, sulfuric acid, methanesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, tin, titanium, zirconium, salts thereof, oxides thereof, soluble organic compounds thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Original): The process as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising using one or more esterification catalysts selected from the group consisting of tin powder, stannous oxide, stannous oxalate, titanate ester, tetraisopropyl orthotitanate, tetrabutyl orthotitanate, zirconium ester, tetrabutyl zirconate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (Original): The process as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the transesterification is carried out at a temperature of 100 to 220°C.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A polymer, plastic, PVC, or PVC plastisol[[,]] comprising the mixture as claimed in Claim 1 as a plasticizer.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The polymer, plastic, PVC or PVC plastisol as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the polymer, plastic, PVC or PVC plastisol is selected from the group consisting of PVC, PVB, homo- and copolymers based on ethylene, on propylene, on butadiene, on vinyl acetate, on glycidyl acrylate, on glycidyl methacrylate, on acrylates, on acrylates with, bonded to the oxygen atom of the ester group, alkyl radicals of branched or

unbranched alcohols having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, on styrene or acrylonitrile, or on homo- or copolymers of cyclic olefins, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (Original): The polymer, plastic, PVC or PVC plastisol as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate having identical or different alkyl radicals having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms, bonded to the oxygen atom of the ester group, polymethacrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate-butyl acrylate copolymer, methyl methacrylate-butyl methacrylate copolymer, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, chlorinated polyethylene, nitrile rubber, acrylonitrile-butadiene styrene copolymer, ethylene-propylene copolymer, ethylene-propylene-diene copolymer, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer, acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene elastomer, methyl methacrylate-styrene-butadiene copolymer, nitrocellulose, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (Original): A paint, ink or coating material, comprising the mixture as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 19 (Original): An adhesive, component thereof, or sealing compound, comprising the mixture as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A composition[[,]] comprising from 5 to 90% by weight of the mixture ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 1 and from 10 to 95% by weight of one or more di-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>-alkyl phthalates.

Claim 21 (Original): The composition as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the dialkyl phthalate is diisononyl phthalate.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A composition[[,]] comprising from 5 to 90% by weight of the mixture ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 1 and from 10 to 95% by weight of one or more di-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>-alkyl adipates.

Claim 23 (Original): The composition as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the dialkyl adipate is diisononyl adipate.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A composition[[,]] comprising from 5 to 90% by weight of the mixture as claimed in Claim 1 and from 10 to 95% by weight of one or more C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> alkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylates.

Claim 25 (Original): The composition as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the alkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate is diisononyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate.

Claim 26 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising one or more di- C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>-alkyl phthalates.

Claim 27 (Original): The composition as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the di- C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>-alkyl phthalate is diisononyl phthalate.

Claim 28 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising of one or more di- C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>-alkyl adipates.

Claim 29 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the di- C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>-alkyl adipate is diisononyl adipate.

Claim 30 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising one or more C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> alkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylates.

Claim 31 (Original): The mixture as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> alkyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate is diisononyl cyclohexanedicarboxylate.